

being unpatentable over Wagner in view of Wang and Fuller (U.S. Patent No. 5,224,156). The foregoing objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

In response to the subject Action, claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 17, 24, 31, and 34 are amended. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. A Version with Markings to Show Changes Made to the claims is included herewith.

In the Preliminary Amendment filed January 16, 2001, claim 2 was indicated as "CANCELED" in the recitation of claim 2. For clarification, claim 2 is canceled herein.

Claims 1, 3-9, 12-17, 20-24, 27-31 and 34-38 are pending and rejected. Claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 17, 24, and 31 are independent claims. Claims 3-6 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1; claims 12-16 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 9; claims 20-23 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 17; claims 27-30 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 24; and claims 34-38 depend from claim 31.

Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 17, 24, and 31 are amended, taking the Examiner's comments into consideration and directed to overcoming the foregoing objections, and the rejections of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112(2). Withdrawal of the foregoing objections and the rejections of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112(2) is respectfully requested.

Wagner (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,102)

Wagner discloses a system and method for notifying users about information or events of a medical enterprise. In the Wagner apparatus, an enterprise 20 (shown in Figure 1) provides information 16 to a notification system 16, which notifies users 10, 12, and 14 about information 16, 17 or events 18 of the enterprise 20.

Wang (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,891)

As shown in Fig. 1 of Wang, the Wang apparatus relates to a telephone answering machine provided between a telephone and a phone line and having an e-mail receiving function. According to the disclosure of Wang, the telephone answering machine of the Wang apparatus merely receives the e-mail.

Murakami (U.S. patent No. 5,590,178)

Murakami relates to portable telephone accessing an electronic mail center and receiving electronic mail. The Examiner's assertions that the Murakami apparatus has "memory status means for storing each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of a plurality of terminal devices" as in the present invention are respectfully traversed. A "memory status means", if existing in the Murakami apparatus, would be provided in the mail server of the Murakami apparatus.

Fuller (U.S. Patent No. 5,224,156)

Fuller discloses an apparatus for sending and receiving confidential facsimile messages, and which allows remote retrieval of the facsimile messages.

Combination of Wagner and Wang

The apparatus which would result from the combination of the Wagner apparatus and the Wang apparatus is a medical enterprise system including a telephone answering machine provided between a telephone and a phone line and having an e-mail receiving function receiving the e-mail.

Combination of Wagner, Wang and Murakami

The apparatus which would result from the combination of the Wagner apparatus, the Wang apparatus and the Murakami apparatus is a medical enterprise system including a telephone answering machine provided between a telephone and a phone line and having an e-mail receiving function receiving the e-mail, including a portable telephone accessing an electronic mail center and receiving electronic mail.

Combination of Wagner, Wang and Fuller

The apparatus which would result from the combination of the Wagner apparatus, the Wang apparatus and the Fuller apparatus is a medical enterprise system including a telephone answering machine provided between a telephone and a phone line and having an e-mail receiving function receiving the e-mail, including sending and receiving confidential facsimile messages, and which allows remote retrieval of the facsimile messages

Recitations of independent claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 17, 24, and 31 of the present application

In the present invention (1) the electronic mail managing function is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices and (2) the electronic mail managing function integratedly manages the electronic mail based upon the electronic mail status corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

Each of the foregoing independent claims of the present application recites the above-mentioned features of the present invention. More particularly, using the recitation of claim 1 as an example, the foregoing independent claims of the present application each recite "wherein the electronic mail managing function is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the electronic mail managing function integratedly manages the electronic mail based on the status of the electronic mail corresponding to each of the terminal devices".

Moreover, the above-mentioned dependent claims recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 10 recites "mail status memory means for storing each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices", a benefit of which is that the present invention is that electronic mail can be integratively managed by referring to a mail status memory.

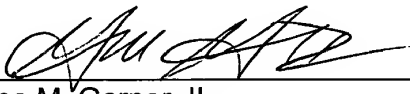
Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 is respectfully requested.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claim 2.

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function, said telephone capable of connecting with at least a mail server and [aplurality] a plurality of terminal devices, said telephone comprising:
 - access means for accessing to the mail server;
 - a mail memory for storing an electronic mail downloaded from the mail server through the access means;
 - a mail status memory for storing each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of the terminal devices, wherein said status memory means stores whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices; and
 - transmission means for transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory to one of the terminal devices, wherein the [main] electronic mail managing function is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the electronic mail managing function integratedly manages the electronic mail based on the status of the electronic mail corresponding to each of the terminal devices.
2. (CANCELED)
3. (TWICE AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 1, said telephone further comprising:

a process table for storing a process to be applied to the electronic mail after the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices.

4. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 3, said process to be applied to the electronic mail includes deleting the electronic mail and keeping the electronic mail.

5. (AS ORIGINAL) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 1, said telephone further comprising:

emergency process means for judging whether or not a priority process is necessary based on the electronic mail received from each of the terminal devices and for executing an access to the mail server when the priority process is executed.

6. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 1, said telephone further comprising:

an identifier memory for storing an identifier of an terminal device to be connected, permits an access from the terminal device in case that the identifier coincides with the stored identifier.

7. (TWICE AMENDED) A mail managing method in a mail managing apparatus capable of transmitting/receiving mail data to/from at least a mail server and a plurality of terminal devices, said method comprising:

a reading process of reading [a] mail stored in the mail server;

a storing process of storing the mail read in the reading process [step];

a display process of displaying a status of the mail stored in the storing process for each of the terminal devices, wherein said status includes whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices; and

a transmission process of transmitting the mail stored in the storing [step] process to one of the terminal devices, wherein the mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the mail managing method integratedly manages the mail based on a status of the mail corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

8. (TWICE AMENDED) A storage medium storing a program used for a mail managing apparatus capable of transmitting/receiving mail data to/from at least a mail server and a plurality of terminal devices, said program comprising:

a reading process of reading a mail stored in the mail server;

a storing process of storing the mail read in the reading process;

a display process of displaying a status of the mail stored in the storing for each of the terminal devices, wherein said status includes whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices; and

a transmission process of transmitting the mail stored in the storing process to one of the terminal devices, wherein the [main] mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the mail managing apparatus integratedly manages the mail server based on the status of the mail corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

9. (TWICE AMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus capable of communicating with a mail server which stores therein an electronic mail sent to an address, comprising:

a receiving unit receiving from the mail server an electronic mail addressed to a predetermined address; and

a mail memory unit storing the received electronic mail;

a mail status memory means for storing each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal

devices, wherein the each status of the mail status memory means indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic mail managing apparatus for each terminal device has been transmitted to the [associated] terminal device; and

wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is capable of communicating with a plurality of terminal devices, and comprising a transmitting unit transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by [said] one of the plurality of terminal [device] devices, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus integratedly manages the electronic mail based on the electronic mail status corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

10. (CANCELED)

11. (CANCELED)

12. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 9 further comprising:

process specifying means for specifying, for each terminal device, how the electronic mail transmitted to the terminal device should be processed.

13. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 12 further comprising:

means for receiving the electronic mail from each terminal device; and

means for transmitting the received electronic mail to the mail server.

14. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said electronic managing apparatus is emergency processing means for judging whether or not a preference process is necessary based on the received electronic mail and, if judged to be affirmative, executing access to the mail server.

15. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 14 further comprising:

identifier memory means for storing therein identifiers of the plurality of terminal devices, and permitting access from the terminal device corresponding to the stored identifier.

16. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 9 wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided in a telephone.

17. (TWICE AMENDED) An electronic mail managing method in an electronic mail managing apparatus capable of communicating with a mail server which stores therein an electronic mail sent to an address, comprising:

receiving from the mail server an electronic mail addressed to a predetermined address;

storing the received electronic mail in a memory unit;

storing in a status memory unit each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein each status of the status memory unit indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic mail managing apparatus for each terminal devices has been transmitted to the associated terminal device; and

wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is capable of communicating with a plurality of terminal devices, and transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal

devices in response to an access made by said terminal device, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the electronic mail managing method integrally manages the electronic mail based on the electronic mail status corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

18. (CANCELED)

19. (CANCELED)

20. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing method according to Claim 17 further comprising:

processing the received electronic mail based on a process specifying information specifying for each terminal device how the electronic mail transmitted to the respective terminal devices should be processed.

21. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing method according to Claim 17 further comprising:

receiving the electronic mail from each terminal device;
and
transmitting the received electronic mail to the mail server.

22. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing method according to Claim 21 further comprising:

judging whether or not a preference process is necessary based on the received electronic mail; and
executing access to the mail server, if judged to be affirmative.

23. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing method according to Claim 17 further comprising:

permitting access from the terminal device corresponding to a stored identifier, based on the information of an identifier memory unit which stores therein identifiers of the plurality of terminal devices.

24. (TWICE AMENDED) A storage medium storing a program executing an electronic mail management in an information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a plurality of terminal devices, the program comprising:

receiving an electronic mail sent to a predetermined address from a mail server which stores therein the electronic mail addressed to an address;

storing the received electronic mail in a memory unit;

storing in a status memory unit each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein each status indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic [managing apparatus] electronic mail management for each terminal devices has been transmitted to the associated terminal device; and

transmitting the electronic mail stored in the memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by said [terminal device] one of the plurality of terminal devices, wherein the electronic mail management is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices and wherein the electronic mail management integrally manages the electronic mail based on the electronic mail status corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

25. (CANCELED)

26. (CANCELED)

27. (AS ORIGINAL) A program of the storage medium according to Claim 24 further comprising:

processing the received electronic mail based on a process specifying information specifying for each terminal device how the electronic mail transmitted to the terminal device should be processed.

28. (AS ORIGINAL) A program of the storage medium according to Claim 24 further comprising:

receiving the electronic mail from each terminal device;
and
transmitting the received electronic mail to the mail server.

29. (AS ORIGINAL) A program of the storage medium according to Claim 28 further comprising:

judging whether or not a preference process is necessary based on the received electronic mail; and
executing access to the mail server, if judged to be affirmative.

30. (AS ORIGINAL) A program of the storage medium according to Claim 24 further comprising:

permitting access from the terminal device corresponding to a stored identifier, based on the information of an identifier memory unit which stores therein identifiers of the plurality of terminal devices.

31. (TWICE AMENDED) An electronic mail managing system comprising:[:]

an electronic mail managing apparatus capable of communicating with a mail server which stores therein an electronic mail sent to an address; and

a plurality of terminal devices capable of communicating with the electronic mail managing apparatus; and

wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit receiving from the mail server an electronic mail addressed to a predetermined address;

a mail memory unit storing therein the received electronic mail;

mail status memory means for storing each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein each status of the mail status memory unit indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic mail managing apparatus for each terminal device has been transmitted to the associated terminal device; and

a transmitting unit transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by said terminal device, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices and wherein the electronic mail management apparatus integrately manages the electronic mail based on the electronic mail status corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

32. (CANCELED)

33. (CANCELED)

34. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus further comprising:

process specifying means for specifying, for each terminal device, how the electronic mail transmitted to the respective terminal devices should be processed.

35. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus further comprising:
means for receiving the electronic mail from each terminal device; and
means for transmitting the received electronic mail to the mail server.

36. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic managing apparatus further comprising:
emergency processing means for judging whether or not a preference process is necessary based on the received electronic mail and, if judged to be affirmative, executing access to the mail server.

37. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus further comprising:
identifier memory means for storing therein identifiers of the plurality of terminal devices, and permitting access from the terminal device corresponding to the stored identifier.

38. (AS ORIGINAL) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is a telephone.